

Lent and Easter 2025

With our accessibility project now underway, I am thinking about renovations. Renovations on the church building, yes. But also, renovations of the heart. Lent is often a time when Christians seek renewal, and transformation in preparation for the Easter celebration. Just as a physical renovation involves clearing out unnecessary clutter, repairing damage and creating something new, the Lenten season can become a time for reflection, repentance and spiritual renewal. Lent is also a time to partner with God in carrying out God's work. Through prayer and acts of kindness we can participate and live as people of the resurrection, waiting and longing for the light and joy that Easter brings.

The resurrection invites us to let Christ renovate our hearts as he has done for millions before us. The resurrection invites us to hope again, after hope has been seemingly extinguished and we are tempted to despair. Christ's resurrection invites us to believe again when our belief has been rattled and shaken by doubt. It invites us to start over when we feel that discouragement has come over us. The resurrection of Christ is the good news that Jesus has defeated death and evil, and so will we. Hence, we have reason to joyously sing and pray in celebration of Christ's resurrection.

This is also a time of year when many wish to make a special gift to support the missions of the church. Thus, the enclosed Easter envelope has been provided for those who are able to make a special offering of love towards our ministries. Online donations can also be made in a variety of ways by contacting the church office or by visiting our website.

The children and youth of Wolfville Baptist have made crosses as a special gift for the congregation this year. They have been inserted in this envelope for your convenience. It is hoped these works of art will remind you of God's great invitation to us all in Christ.

The newsletter that follows gives a small snapshot of the good work we are doing at WBC.

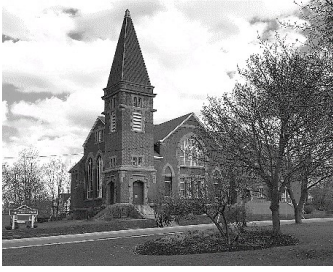
On Good Friday, this year's Walk with the Cross begins at Manning Memorial Chapel at 10:00 am and ends at the L'Arche building with hot cross buns. Along the way, several stations of the cross will be followed as representatives of various Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council members lead us. Also on Good Friday, at 5:00 pm at Wolfville Baptist, there will be a Good Friday service for reflection and music. On Sunday, April 20, all are invited to our Easter Sunday Breakfast at 9:00 am in the lower hall of Wolfville Baptist. After breakfast we will gather in the sanctuary to celebrate the resurrection of Christ at 10:30 am.

As always, we are grateful to all who pray for the church, and who give your time, talents, and treasures in support of Christ's work among us.

A blessed Easter to all,



Scott Kindred-Barnes
Senior Minister of Wolfville Baptist Church



April 2025

WOLFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

At the Heart of the Community with the Community at Heart

EDGE Unlimited Goes Bottle Crazy!

The youth are excited about their upcoming trip to OneConference in Moncton, May 31–June 1. Every Monday night we start our evening sorting bottles and cans donated by the congregation and other supporters. Some weeks there is a large pile of bottles, others a smaller pile. Either way, the youth find ways to make work fun. The budget for OneCon includes registration, transportation, and accommodation. Currently, we are halfway to our registration goal. Thank you for all the bottles and cans. Please remember to rinse – we have an expert mop handler – and keep them coming.



Please plan to attend our Coffee House Fundraiser on April 12 from 7:00-8:30 pm, and a car wash in early May.

Pre-Authorized Giving is Easy

With automated giving, you can set up your donations to come straight from your bank account. You pick the schedule that works for you—monthly, quarterly, or yearly. Plus, you're in control and can change or stop your giving

anytime by contacting the church office. Your regular gift helps the church keep a steady income, which allows us to fulfil our mission to worship God, share His love, grow in faith, build community, and serve others locally and globally. Interested? Contact the church office or visit <https://www.wolfvillebaptist.ca/copy-of-giving>

Homelessness in Wolfville

During the summer of 2023 two individuals began sleeping on benches outside the library. Later they moved into tents and still later winter tents.

That fall a group of concerned citizens began regular meetings around housing issues at Wolfville Baptist Church.

The town has been successful in obtaining a \$1.8 million federal Accelerator project. Market housing and a review of current zoning are all on the agenda. The town does own some pieces of land and Accelerator funds could aid a related project.

The 2022 findings were 119 homeless in Kings County, 263 in the entire Valley with 150 children. About 700 university students were surveyed and roughly half reported housing or food insecurity. The most recent numbers haven't been issued yet.

Through a housing first approach, the ideal is that people living with homelessness move into stable housing, with access to support services.

There are an estimated 50 individuals stuck in the couch surfing scenario in Wolfville. In the past year over 230 women and children were turned away from Chrysalis House due to a lack

of space. There are long waiting lists (4 years) for provincial seniors housing.

By summer 2024 there were four tent dwellers in Wolfville and heat was a concern. By fall agencies based in Kentville started to act in a more coordinated manner and Canadian Mental Health Association staff were in Wolfville one day a week.

In late December all of the people in tents had been relocated mostly by Open Arms. One is living at the Tiny Meadows Pallet Village in Kentville.

The Wolfville Area Inter Church Council has funded one day a week salary for a navigator for one year. That outreach will be provided by Open Arms in the WAICC area.

Homelessness is solely a provincial responsibility. While technically that is correct, morally it is wrong. Caring about and helping our fellow humans is everyone's responsibility.

Meet Our Congregants: Dorothy King & Stan Moeller

Stan Moeller and Dorothy King were still grieving for George when they decided to look for another dog. A friend of a friend said she knew of a lady whose boyfriend died suddenly. The lady had taken his dog but couldn't keep him. She said it was a big dog who needed exercise and time outdoors. She brought Ted over for a visit. Ted loved running around their field and in the woods. He's a shy, loving gentleman in an extra large body, who loves to have his belly rubbed.

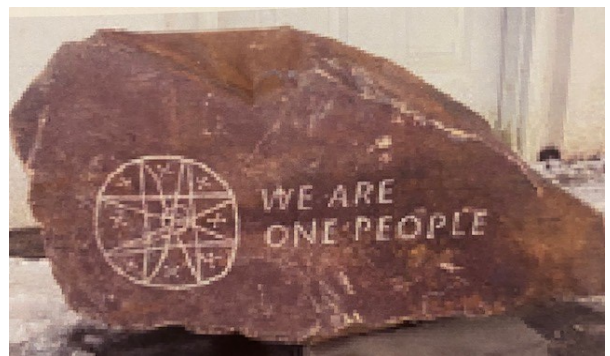


Board of Global Ministries Update

The Board of Global Ministries consists of five elected members. The function of the board is to foster within the congregation awareness of needs and opportunities for Christian missions whether globally, nationally, or locally. The board, where possible and appropriate, initiates action.

The goals, to name a few, are lofty, but achievable: -building relationship with our indigenous friends; with the Wolfville school (providing protein to families in need and literacy support to children); supporting the crisis in Ukraine; recognizing African Heritage month in a concrete way; potential volunteer efforts with Landmark East (Sue Tatrallyay gave a fulsome report to the congregation).

In the spring of 2021, the Board installed a large granite stone inscribed with the words "We Are One People" in Wolfville's Clock Park. It was a celebratory afternoon, as the group that gathered joined in traditional music, poetry, and readings - affirming that we are all treaty people, supportive of each other as we go forward into the future. For the stone carver, Colin Craig, who had donated his services, it was especially poignant.



On another occasion, our two friends from Annapolis Valley First Nation helped us identify Sweet Grass that had been planted in Miner's Marsh, Kentville. It was another opportunity to learn from and connect with our indigenous neighbours, in the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

The BGM remains a vibrant and dedicated board.